

Appln No. 10/647,076
Amdt date March 27, 2006
Reply to Office action of October 27, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A plant-cultivating container having a receiving portion for receiving a plant body; the container having, as at least a portion thereof, a selective moisture vapor-permeable portion comprising a non-porous hydrophilic film of a material other than cellophane to which substantially no hydrophobic porous film is superimposed, wherein the selective moisture vapor-permeable portion prevents direct contact between the receiving portion and external water; the selective moisture vapor-permeable portion not allowing water to pass therethrough, but allowing water vapor to pass therethrough.

2 (Original) A plant-cultivating container according to claim 1, wherein the moisture vapor-permeable portion has a moisture vapor-permeability of 1×10^3 g/m²·24 hours or more.

3. (Original) A plant cultivating container according to claim 1, wherein the ratio of the area of the moisture vapor-permeable portion to the total surface area of the outside surface of the container on the side thereof to be in contact with water is 20% or more.

4. (Original) A plant-cultivating container according to claim 1, wherein the moisture vapor-permeable portion is provided over the total surface area of the container.

5. (Previously Presented) A plant-cultivating container according to claim 1, wherein the selective moisture vapor-permeable portion comprises a composite material comprising a material having selective moisture vapor-permeability which prevents water from passing through the selective moisture vapor-permeable portion, but allows water vapor to pass therethrough; and another water-permeable material.

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6. (Original) A plant-cultivating container according to claim 1, wherein the selective moisture vapor-permeable portion comprises a composite material comprising a material having selective moisture vapor-permeability which prevents water from passing through the selective moisture vapor-permeable portion, but allows water vapor to pass therethrough; and another water-permeable material disposed outside of the selective moisture vapor-permeable material.

7. (Previously Presented) A plant-cultivating container according to claim 6, wherein the water permeable material is a perforated bottom of the container.

8. (Currently Amended) A plant-cultivating method, comprising:
providing a plant-cultivating container having a receiving portion for receiving a plant body; the container, having as at least a portion thereof, a selective moisture vapor-permeable portion comprising a non-porous hydrophilic film of a material other than cellophane to which substantially no hydrophobic film is superimposed, wherein the selective moisture vapor-permeable portion prevents water from passing through the selective moisture vapor-permeable portion, but allows water vapor to pass therethrough;

disposing a plant body-retaining support and a plant body in the container; and
cultivating the plant body while causing at least the selective moisture vapor-permeable portion to contact water and to prevent direct contact between the plant body and external water.

9. (Original) A plant-cultivating method according to claim 8, wherein the water in contact with the moisture vapor-permeable portion is temperature-controlled water.

10. (Original) A plant-cultivating method according to claim 8, wherein the water in contact with the moisture vapor-permeable portion is water which as such is not suitable for the growth of a plant.

11. (Original) A plant-cultivating method according to claim 10, wherein the water in contact with the moisture vapor-permeable portion is salt water, polluted water or hard water.

12. (Currently Amended) A plant-cultivating container comprising a plant-receiving portion defined by a bottom wall and one or more sidewalls adjacent the bottom wall, the plant-receiving portion having an open top for receiving a plant, wherein at least a portion of at least one of the bottom wall and one or more sidewalls comprises a selective moisture vapor-permeable portion comprising a non-porous hydrophilic film of a material other than cellophane to which substantially no hydrophobic film is superimposed, wherein the selective moisture vapor-permeable portion prevents direct contact between the plant body and the external water, wherein the selective moisture vapor-permeable portion permits water vapor to pass therethrough, but does not permit water to pass therethrough.

13. (Currently Amended) The plant-cultivating container of claim 1 wherein the nonporous hydrophilic film comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol, ~~cellophane~~, cellulose acetate, cellulose nitrate, ethyl cellulose, silicone rubber, polyester, neoprene, polyethyl methacrylate, polystyrene, and copolymers thereof.

14. (Currently Amended) The plant-cultivating container of claim 12 wherein the nonporous hydrophilic film comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol, ~~cellophane~~, cellulose acetate, cellulose nitrate, ethyl cellulose, silicone rubber, polyester, neoprene, polyethyl methacrylate, polystyrene, and copolymers thereof.

15. (New) The plant-cultivating container according to claim 13, wherein the non-porous hydrophilic film comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol and copolymers thereof.

16. (New) The plant-cultivating method according to claim 8, wherein the non-porous hydrophilic film comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol, cellulose acetate, cellulose nitrate, ethyl cellulose, silicone rubber, polyester, neoprene, polyethyl methacrylate, polystyrene, and copolymers thereof.

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17. (New) The plant-cultivating method according to claim 16, wherein the non-porous hydrophilic film comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol and copolymers thereof.

18. (New) The plant-cultivating container according to claim 14, wherein the non-porous hydrophilic film comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol and copolymers thereof.